

REMARKS

1. The pending claims are not anticipated by the cited prior art

The pending claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the teachings of the Pourahmadi reference (WO 99/33559).

Applicants have amended their claims to more clearly distinguish their instantly-claimed invention from the cited prior art. The instant invention is directed towards particular embodiments of centripetally-motivated microfluidics platforms disclosed in several co-owned U.S. patents and patent applications, as disclosed throughout their specification. Such platforms are not disclosed in the cited prior art. Moreover, the Pourahmadi reference does not describe a microfluidic platform where the combination of microfluidic components defines a manifold. Rather, Pourahmadi describes a device comprising a cartridge having formed therein: a) an inlet port for introducing the sample into the cartridge; b) a sample flow path extending from the inlet port, wherein the sample flow path includes at least one flow-through component for capturing the desired analyte from the sample; c) an elution flow path for carrying elution fluid (claim 1). In contrast, claim 1 of the present invention discloses a microfluidic platform comprising a plurality of microfluidics components where the combination of microfluidic components defines a manifold.

For all these reasons, the Pourahmadi reference does not teach each and every element of claim 1 (or dependent claims 2-5) and cannot anticipate the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Applicants thus respectfully request that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSIONS

Applicants believe that all grounds of rejection have been overcome by amendment, and request that the pending claims be passed to issue.

If Examiner Choi believes it to be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative by telephone at (312) 913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,
McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff

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By: _____
Kevin Noonan, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 35,303